



**CANADA EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION UNION  
SYNDICAT DE L'EMPLOI ET DE L'IMMIGRATION DU CANADA**

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# **CLAIMANT RE-EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY**

## **THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIENTS**

The stated goal of the CRS is to "speed up claimants return to work". In principle, we in CEIU agree with this. In principle, everyone agrees with getting unemployed people back to work as quickly as possible.

BUT -- we want to provide claimants with training, with counselling to get them placed in a job which suits their needs and desires and will last. The CRS just wants them to get a job and get off UI.

This means that client groups, anti-poverty organizations and so on will be opposed to CRS when they understand what it will really mean for UI recipients. It will be denounced by them (and correctly) as part and parcel of the Bill C-21 attack on the unemployed.

In the past, there has been a separation within CECs between the employment and the UI sides. One of the major positive reasons for this is to allow counsellors to work with unemployed people outside of the stigma of the control function in terms of UI eligibility and access. People could be frank with employment counsellors because the interview did not have a control aspect to it. The CRS, however, will involve interview that have both a control function and a service needs function -- IN THE SAME INTERVIEW.

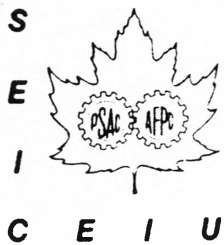
What will this look like to the client? An interview with a CEC worker who claims to be providing counselling and/or service needs determination but is also exercising a control function concerning the client's claim will focus on getting the client back to work - regardless of the work. How can the client feel comfortable and be open in an interview that, in part, is trying to catch him or her in some breakage of the rules? According to Arthur Kroeger, "strengthened claims control is a natural result of the CRS".

If the goal is to help clients return to the workforce with the skills needed to retain a good-paying job, then we in CEIU support that. But CRS is just interested in getting claimants off UI - Mcjobs are what we'll be offering, or rather imposing on our clients. Remember, the interview involves control of claims as well as helping find a job.

### **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

### **WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

The CRS is not legislation - it is departmental policy and is being implemented at the local and regional levels. We do not need to implement it at all. In the interests of Canada, we should refuse.



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## **LFDS**

### **LABOUR FORCE DESTRUCTION STRATEGY**

In conjunction with Bill C-21, the Mulroney government has instituted the LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (LFDS). This is the plan to spend the money being taken out of the pockets of the unemployed by Bill C-21. It is also the plan to make training less accessible for those who need it and more attuned to the needs of employers than the needs of unemployed workers.

The most important fact about LFDS is that it plans to use the money taken from UI benefits to train unemployed workers. It represents a savings for the government because they will no longer fund training out of general revenues but let the unemployed pay for the training. CEIU and most other organizations, including the consultation groups set up by the government, are adamant that UI funds should not be used for training, but for income maintenance as was originally intended.

The second fact about LFDS concerns contracting out of CEC jobs. The government is using the fact that CEC are under-staffed to give our jobs to the private sector. Counselling, job finding clubs, diagnostic services are all on the block for private sector investment.

The third key fact about LFDS is the CRS, the Claimant Re-employment Strategy. This 'strategy' is really very simple - get UI recipients off UI and back to work. But it will mean that we will have to force people to take virtually any available job - low-paying, dead-end jobs mostly.

The final fact about LFDS is that these training dollars will not be accessible by those who need them the most - the economically marginal, the unemployed, the social assistance recipient. These people will either not be eligible for UI or be forced off UI by the CRS.

Overall, the LFDS program will mean, for CEIU,

- a) fewer jobs in the CEC,
- b) more police work for CEC workers,
- c) fewer programs delivered by CECs,

for the unemployed,

- a) less training
- b) less counselling
- c) more economic hardship

**SOMETHING MUST BE DONE !!!!**